

THE DALLAS POST

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER, A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION

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Editorially Speaking:

WHO GAINS IF CHARTER IS ANNULLED?

Efforts of the Back Mountain Protective Association to annul the Dallas Borough Charter and have the present Borough become a part of Dallas Township have most of the residents of both communities confused.

What are the reasons that have prompted the Protective Association to circulate petitions among Dallas Borough voters requesting the Court to have this question placed upon the ballot at the November General Election? What are the advantages to the people who live in Dallas Borough? What are the advantages to the people of Dallas Township? Do the people of the Township have any voice in the matter of accepting Dallas Borough back into the Township? Will taxes be lower? Will we have better government? Who gains, who loses or will both communities be better off operating as a single municipality? How is the annulment of the charter and the return to Dallas Township accomplished?

These are the questions that have many sincere, forward looking and public spirited citizens in both communities concerned, and they are not questions that can be answered with a flat "yes" or "no." There are many things to be said on both sides—some good and some bad.

Many sincere people in both the Borough and Township feel that the time has arrived when the Borough and Township should be done with dissension and should be working as one toward the accomplishment of common objectives.

No one can be certain of the motives of The Back Mountain Protective Association. It is the brain child of Dr. F. Budd Schooley of Dallas Borough. Its membership is composed of a small group of persons, representing but not necessarily representative of, a number of Back Mountain municipalities. It is not a Dallas Borough organization.

The preamble to its Constitution reads: "We citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, associate ourselves for the purpose of: Protecting, Maintaining and Defending the rights and properties of taxpayers of the Back Mountain Area of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania."

It further states that any one may become a member who resides in or owns real estate in the Borough of Dallas or Townships of Dallas, Franklin, Jackson, Lake, Kingston, Lehman and Ross in Luzerne County or in the Townships of Noxen, Monroe and Northmoreland in Wyoming County. Thus the Protective Association covers a wide area and can become involved in any number of conflicting problems.

Formed originally to take up matters of water supply, water rates, sewage disposal and other community problems, it has concerned itself with these as well as with schools, tax assessments and telephone rates. At one time or another many people have attended its meetings, depending upon the problem under discussion and how much the immediate problem affected them. Generally the Association has been in opposition and has not presented any constructive program or solution to any community problem.

Its lack of any real achievement and absence of a constructive program have made it suspect among many forward thinking citizens and have led to charges of "rabble rousing"; "politics," personal "selfishness," and antagonism.

Therefore the motives of the Protective Association in asking for an annulment of the Dallas Borough charter are in doubt.

Be that as it may, what would be the advantages to the people of the present Dallas Borough to return to the Township? Some think that it would mean lower taxes. Dallas Township now has a total tax millage of 53.2 plus a \$5 per capita tax for school purposes. This compares with Dallas Borough's 68.2 and \$10 per capita tax. School tax in the Borough is 2 mills higher than that of the Township and the per capita tax is \$5 per person higher. The Borough now pays 35 mills for schools while the Township pays 33 mills. The joker here is that both communities will be paying the same rate for schools, just as soon as they are joined or the Township starts on its badly needed school building program.

Any real tax saving will, therefore, not come in school taxes. But the Township now pays only 9 mills for general government and roads, while the Borough pays 22 mills for general government, streets, street lighting and police. Street lighting in the Borough costs more than \$3,000 per year. The Township has no street lighting.

But the greatest advantage to the people now living in the Borough would NOT be a possible tax saving. It would lie in the immediate unification of Dallas Borough and Township, a goal many of us have been seeking for years. The common problems of both would become the problem of a single community. It should permit the selection of the best minds of both areas to administer the municipality.

In spite of arguments to the contrary, unification of schools would remain right where it is now . . . dependant upon the approval of the State Council of Education. Annulment of the Borough charter would not make consolidation mandatory. Presently Dallas Borough-Kingston Township Joint Board has one of the few approved jointures in the State. Its program meets all requirements. No other Back Mountain School District has this coveted approval!

Assuming that the consolidation of the districts into one, should meet the approval of the State Council of Education, the reimbursement fraction would not remain the same for the new district as it is in either Dallas Borough or Dallas Township now. Dallas Borough taxpayers will not be permitted by the State Department of Education to any free ride at the expense of the State or the people of Dallas Township. Therefore immediate consolidation of the two school districts or a presumed saving in school taxes are not valid reasons for the annulment of the Borough Charter.

What would be the advantages to Dallas Township? They would be much the same as those for the people now living in Dallas Borough—unification and an elimination of the present causes of bickering. Instead of fighting one against another, we would all be fighting among ourselves . . . if that is any advantage.

Do the people of the Township have any voice in the matter of accepting Dallas Borough back into the Township? Absolutely none! If the people of the Borough vote to annul the charter, and want to return to the Township, the Township will have to accept them. Atty. William Valentine two weeks ago in the Safety Valve explained how annexation is accomplished.

Many in the Township feel that they might be saddled with heavy debt from the Borough. The Borough has a bonded indebtedness of \$21,000 for the new borough building, but provision for handling this is taken care of in the law that permits annulment of the charter.

Will the new governing body of the enlarged Township give the people of the Township or the present Borough a better government than either now has? No. The form of government will be that of a second class township and will be the same as Dallas Township's. The governing body will be the present board of three supervisors of Dallas Township or a newly elected Board. Dallas Borough Council will go out of existence. The new enlarged Township will not be a first class Township with a Board of Township Commissioners because it lacks sufficient population density—a major requirement of a first class Township which has many advantages over a second class Township in the management of municipal affairs.

Presently Dallas Borough is governed by a Burgess, who has little real authority in Borough affairs except the control of police, and a Borough Council composed of seven Councilmen. Councilmen in Dallas Borough receive no salaries although under the law they are permitted to vote themselves salaries if they choose. Council employs a Street Commissioner, Chief of Police and assistants, engineer and secretary. The latter employees are paid. Council also appoints a Board of Health and Building Inspector.

Presently Dallas Township is governed by a three-man Board of Supervisors. Supervisors in most second class townships are primarily concerned with the maintenance of roads and frequently are men who are eager only to secure work on the township roads. They are paid for this road work but receive no other compensation. They are, however, entrusted with the general management of the Township.

Who loses, who gains, or will both municipalities be better off operating as a single municipality? Here again the answer is difficult to pin down.

From the point of view of municipal management, Dallas Borough will lose. The Borough form of government is superior to the Second Class Township form.

Dallas Borough now pays higher taxes but for those higher taxes (amounting to about \$13 more than residents of Dallas Township pay per \$1,000 of assessed valuation its citizens receive: adequate street lighting (this costs the Borough more than \$3,000 per year); twenty-four

(Continued on Page Six)

Woman's Hands Badly Injured

Mrs. Luther Hummel Shows Brave Spirit

Mrs. Luther Hummel, 48, whose hands were badly mangled Monday morning at 11 when they were caught between the rubber rollers of a textile processing machine at Natona Mills is putting up a brave fight to keep up her spirits at Mercy Hospital.

"Many of our boys went to Korea and lost all of their limbs. They want to forget about it, and that's what I want to do," she told a friend who called on her.

Members of her family are grateful that so many have visited her. "Mother loves and needs company—especially at this time," said her daughter, Mrs. J. W. Allen Jr., who is here from North Carolina. "But," she added, "some of the curious have asked her to tell them specifically how many fingers she lost and the nature of her injuries—that only breaks down her spirit. We wish they wouldn't ask such tactless questions, but we do want them to call on her."

Mrs. Hummel had been employed at Natona Mills since its opening seven years ago. At the time of the accident she was attending the machine for Mrs. Virgie Elston, the regular operator, who was having lunch.

The machine was almost instantly stopped and she was given first aid before the arrival of Dr. H. G. Gallagher who had her taken to Mercy Hospital in the Kingston Township ambulance which had been called by mill office.

When Mrs. Hummel spoke of the boys in Korea, she was probably thinking of some who fought beside her son Wellington, now of Baltimore, who spent thirteen months on that front.

She has five other children, Patricia, a senior at Lake-Noxen School who lives with her parents in Loyalville. Luther Jr., of Harveys Lake, a veteran of World War II, who is also employed at Natona Mills and three married daughters, Mrs. J. W. Allen Jr., North Carolina, Mrs. Norman Loebensberg, Baltimore, and Mrs. John Boone, New York, all came home shortly after the accident to be with their mother.

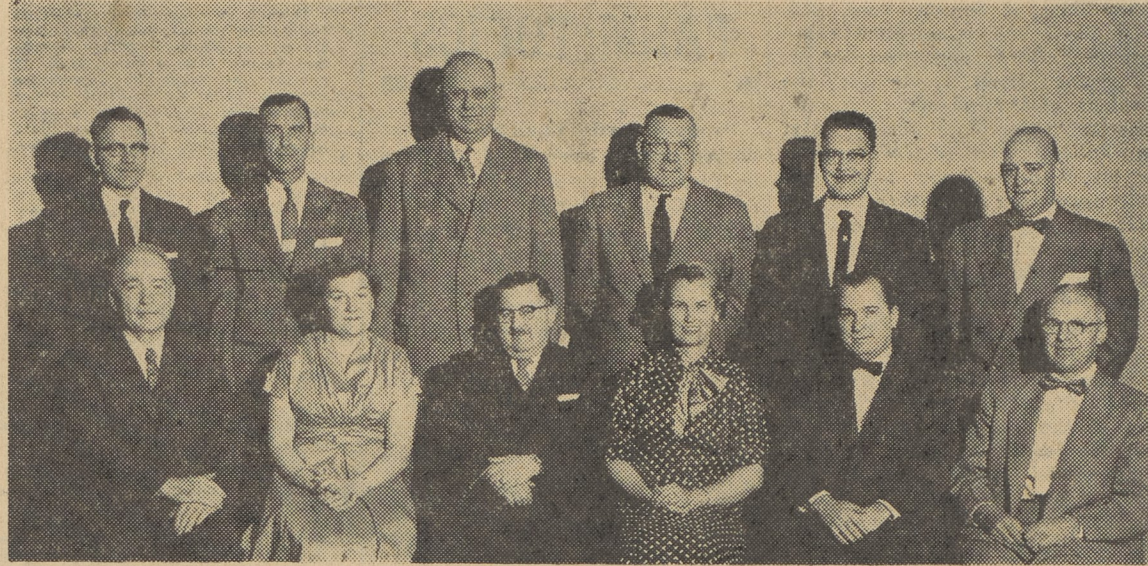
Joint Schools Are Evaluated

Committee Completes Survey On Thursday

Evaluation of Dallas Borough-Kingston Township Joint Schools was completed yesterday afternoon by a committee of educators from the Commission on Secondary Schools of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The committee arrived on Mon-

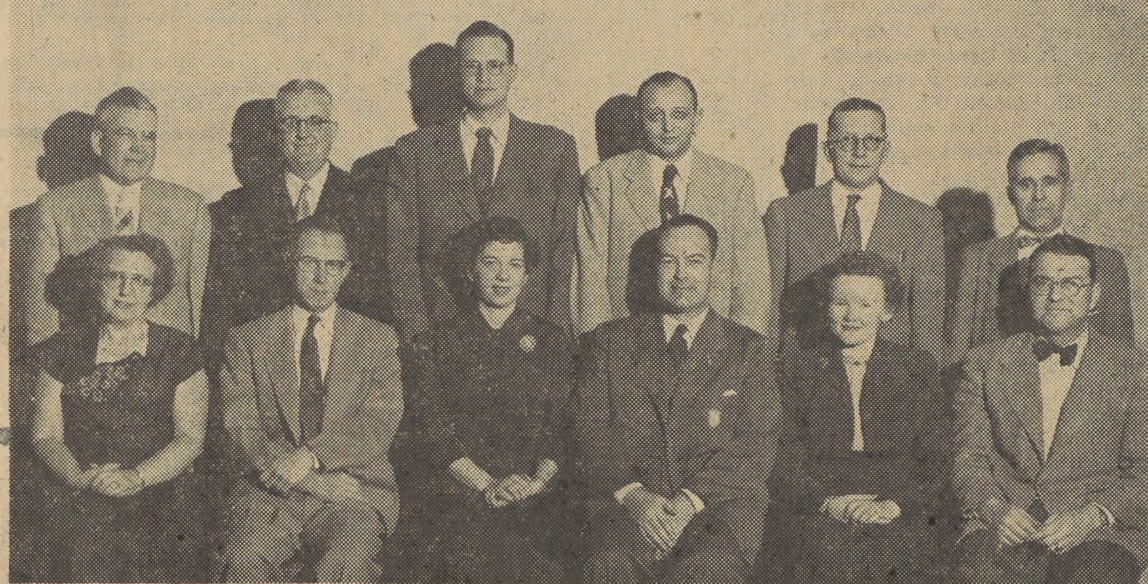
Joint Board Entertains Evaluating Committee



Directors: Standing, left to right: Durelle T. Scott Jr., L. L. Richardson, Charles A. James, Supervisor of Instruction; James A. Martin,

Supervising Principal; William H. Clewell, Harry L. Ohlman. Seated, left to right: L. W. LeGrand, Mrs. Jack E. Jones, Secre-

tary; Dr. Robert M. Bodycomb, Mrs. Charles A. Eberle Jr., Charles H. Mannear, John F. Wardell. Absent: James D. Hutchison.



Evaluating committee; standing left to right, W. Frank Trimble, Principal Westmoreland High School; Fred Jones, Superintendent Sunbury Area Schools; John Carson, Commercial Mt. Penn High School; Charles Ebner, guidance, William Penn High School, Harrisburg; Marvin Werley, Supervising

Principal Pine Grove; John Kaiser, Vocational Education, Sunbury High School; Seated: Mrs. Ethel Darkes, Health, Lebanon High School; Milton H. Steinhauer, Chairman, Associate Professor of Education, Rutgers University; Jean Snyder, Home Economics, Lock Haven High School;

Arthur E. Minnier, Assistant Chairman, Supervising Principal, Clarks Summit-Abington Joint Schools; Myra Scovell, librarian, Kingston High School; Lambert E. Broad, Principal Mining and Mechanical Institute, Freeland.

day and was informally introduced to the Faculty at Westmoreland High School that evening. During its stay here the committee was housed at Irem Temple Country Club where a dinner was held on Tuesday night for its entertainment by the Joint Board.

The local schools were last evaluated in 1948, it being customary to conduct a survey about every five years. The Dallas Borough-Kingston Township Schools are the only local schools ever so evaluated.

The findings of the Committee which cover every phase of school activity from supervision and curriculum to building maintenance and athletic fields, will not be released for some time.

Approval by the Association is a coveted honor for any school system.

Jack Vavrek In Hospital

Returned POW Has Health Undermined

Jack Vavrek, returned Korean war prisoner is a patient at Wilkes-Barre Veterans' Hospital where he was admitted three weeks ago, suffering from effects of malnutrition while in enemy hands, and possible stomach ulcers. X-rays were taken on Monday to determine focal point of the trouble.

Mrs. Anna Vavrek, Jack's mother, reports that he has been unable to eat normally since his return on September 17, so he has been living largely on milk and other liquids. Prison fare for three years in Korea undermined his physique, and it has been impossible for him to regain ground in the months since release.

Jack, on his return last fall, took the examination which would give him a high school diploma and permit him to enter Wilkes College. He had planned to enter at mid-term, but was prevented by ill health. Jack, with only two years of high school at Dallas-Franklin, had accumulated enough education after leaving school to qualify him for college entrance.

Ambulance Fund Drive To Report

Dallas Association Meets Sunday At 3

Dallas Community Ambulance Association will meet Sunday afternoon at 3 in Back Mountain Library Annex, to assay results of the recent drive for funds. Nort Berti, president, extends a cordial invitation to residents of Dallas Borough and Dallas Township to attend, whether they have registered as members of the association or not. Solicitors will report on their canvass, and questions of policy will be discussed. Available ambulances, new and used, will be discussed.

Anybody in the community who has not yet made a donation may do so by calling Nort Berti, Dallas 4-7396; William Wright, 4-5201; Harry Brown, 4-6721; Robert W. Laux, 4-5002.

A list of donors and amounts will shortly be published. Residents wishing to raise their contributions may do so before final returns are tabulated by contacting any of the men named above.

Farley To Be Moderator At Town Meeting

Farver And Tresslar To Speak On Program Sponsored By Library

Believing that sound solutions to public problems can be found only when facts and understanding replace prejudice and misinformation, Back Mountain Memorial Library Association will start its series of Town Meeting forums on pertinent local questions next Wednesday evening, March 31 at 8 at Dallas-Franklin High School Auditorium.

First topic of the series will be: "Are We Ready to Create the Conditions for Better Schools?"

Dr. Hobart A. Farver, Allentown, Superintendent of Lehigh County Schools, the first speaker, will bring accurate first hand information on his topic: "My Experiences with Successful School Jointures and Union Districts."

James Tresslar, Harrisburg, of the State Department of Public Instruction, who directed the recent survey on school facilities in the Back Mountain area will present his findings based on this study.

Dr. Eugene S. Farley, president of Wilkes College, will be moderator.

The meeting will start promptly at 8 and the speakers will be given one hour to present their facts. At 9 the meeting will be thrown open for questions from the floor.

Presidents of Back Mountain School Boards and County Superintendent of Schools E. S. Teter will also be present to answer questions from the floor. The meeting will close promptly at 10.

At the conclusion of the meeting the audience will be given an opportunity to select the topic for discussion at the April Town Meeting which will be held in either Dallas Borough or Westmoreland School.

Charles R. Rinehimer, chairman of the Library's Town Hall committee will have charge of Wednesday night's meeting.

Other officers and members are: Roswell Patterson, vice chairman, Mrs. Charles Eberle, secretary; Edward Haskell and Albert Pesavento, publicity; James Hutchison, Lewis LeGrand, Odis Moore, Mrs. W. E. McQuilkin, Howard Risley, David Schooley, Atty. Mitchell Jenkins, Rev. Robert Yost, Harry Bogart and Arthur Smith.

awarded prizes and trophies. Robert Dolbear was toastmaster. Charles Rinehimer, PTA president, was present.

Harry Lawrence, football coach at Bucknell University, was the main speaker. Heard also were Coaches Robert Thomas, Mrs. Jewell Ruddy, and Ethel Shultz. Alfred Milliner Camp spoke for the band, and Edgar Hughes, faculty manager of athletics, made a few remarks. Raymond Kuhnert, supervising principal, spoke briefly.

Trophies For Lehman



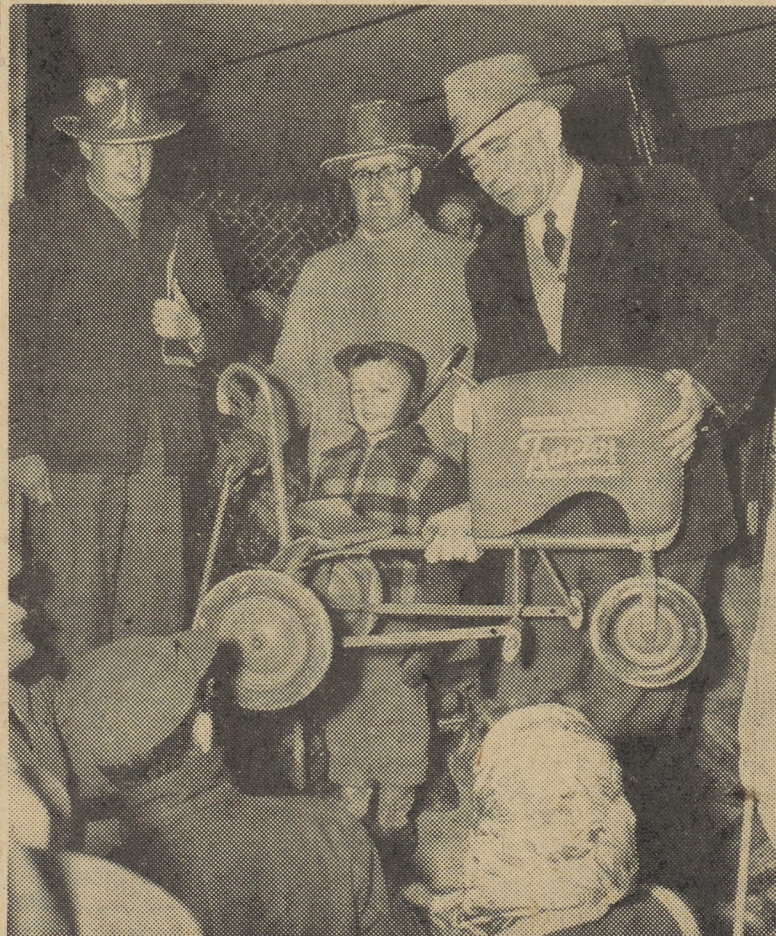
Lehman-Jackson-Ross school students pose with trophies won in fowl shooting and wrestling events. Kneeling, left to right, are Babette Hewitt, Theresa Rodriguez, and Janet Cornell, winners in the fowl shooting contest sponsored by Wyoming Valley Women Basketball Officials at Meyers High School on St. Patrick's Day.

Standing are Mike Schultz, Jack Kern, and Tom Coburn, winners of first and second place trophies in the YMCA Novice Wrestling Meet. Teams from twenty-two regional

schools were in the fowl shooting contest. Out of twenty-five shots Hewitt made seventeen, Rodriguez and Cornell each eighteen, making a team score of fifty-three.

In the wrestling finals, Coburn defeated Watchilla of Coughlin for first place in the 95 pound class; Schultz lost to Wanowski, Nanticoke, 120 pounds, winning second place trophy; Kern defeated Behler, Coughlin, in a close touch and go match for the 138-pound championship.

Who'll Buy My Little Tractor?



Here is Ricky Post, offering his Christmas tractor for sale. If Pop could have a new tractor, Ricky wanted one too. The small model brought \$14 over the block, the new model, purchased on the spot, cost \$29.95. Who made up the difference? Pop. Harold Post, trading in his Massey-Harris 30 on a larger Massey-

Harris 44, and young Ricky, went home to Broadway well satisfied with the days transactions. Charles Long, with the rain-cover on his hat because of inclement weather, Dayton Long with the clip-board, and Howard Sands, auctioneer, provide a backdrop for Rickey and his tractor.